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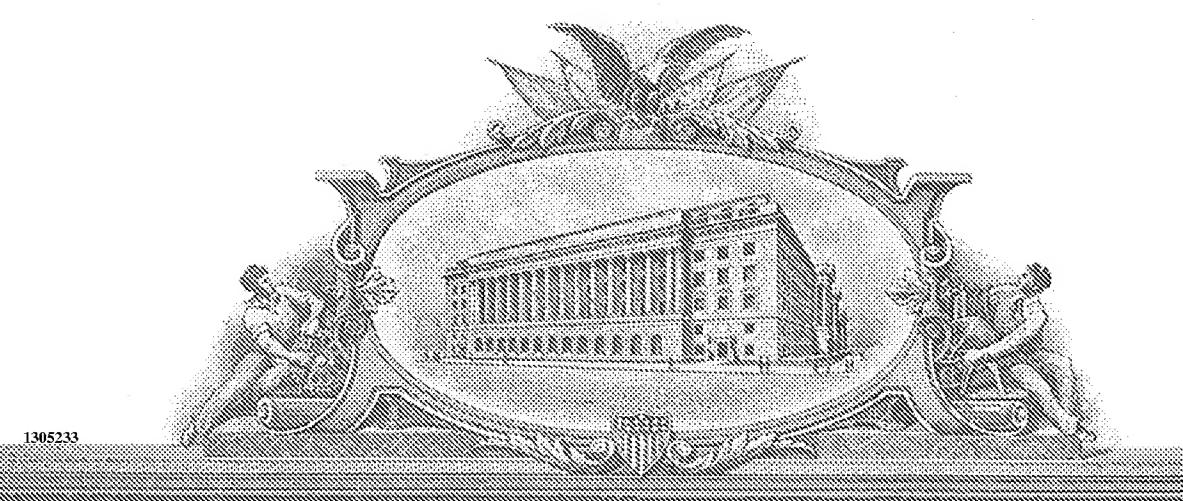
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April 06, 2005

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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/554,743

FILING DATE: March 19, 2004 RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: PCT/US05/08261

Certified by

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PTO/SB/16 (02-01)

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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53 (c).

Express Mail Label No. EV441452363US								
INVENTOR(S)								
Given Name (first and middl	Family I	Name or Surnam	e (Cit	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)				
Mark Alan		Yoder		Carmel, Indiana				
Scott Allen			Rottler		Avon, Indiana			
Additional inventors are being named on the separately numbered sheets attached hereto								
	TITLE O	F THE INV	ENTION (280 ch	aracters ma	x)			
VIDEO PROCESSOR ALIGNMENT CLAMPING SPRING								
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS								1
Direct all correspondence to:					Place Customer Number			
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Firm <i>or</i> Individual Name	JOSEPH S. TRIPOLI, THOMSON LICENSING INC.							
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Country	USA		Telephone		09-734-6834 Fax 609-734-688			8
	ENCLOSED	APPLICAT	ION PARTS (ch	eck all that a	apply)			
Specification Number of Pages 2 CD(s), Number								
Drawing(s) Number of Sheets 1 Other (specify)								
Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76								
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT (check one)								
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Respectfully submitted, SIGNATURE								
TYPED or PRINTED NAME Patricia A. Verlangieri (if appropriate) REGISTRATION NO. 42,201								
Docket Number: PU040076 TELEPHONE 609 734-6867								

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

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FEE TRANSMITTAL

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Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.			First Named Inventor			Mar	k Alan Yoder et	al.		
			Examiner Name							
Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27			Art Unit							
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SUBMITTED BY						Charles Charle	Com	plete (if applicable)		
Name (Print/Type)	Patricia A. Verlangieri	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)				(609) 734-6867				
Signature Fature G. Verlange				•			Date March 19, 2004			
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VIDEO PROCESSOR ALIGNMENT CLAMPING SPRING

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates generally to a digital light pulse (DLPTM) projection system for use with a microdisplay.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

At the core of every digital light pulse (DLPTM) projection system is an optical semiconductor known as a digital micromirror device (DMD) chip. The mechanical alignment of the DMD chip to the rest of the light engine is critical to properly locating the picture onto the screen.

A special fixture or machine is required to align the DMD assembly (including the heatsink and PC board) to the core optics array. Features are typically built into the assembly for the machine to manipulate the DMD chip so at to align it.

Previous light engine designs have hard mounted the DMD assembly to the optics housing and then adjusted the optical system around the chip position. Since, this alignment is performed visually on the screen by an operator the electronics are live during this alignment and the DMD chip needs to be in focus for the alignment to be performed properly.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

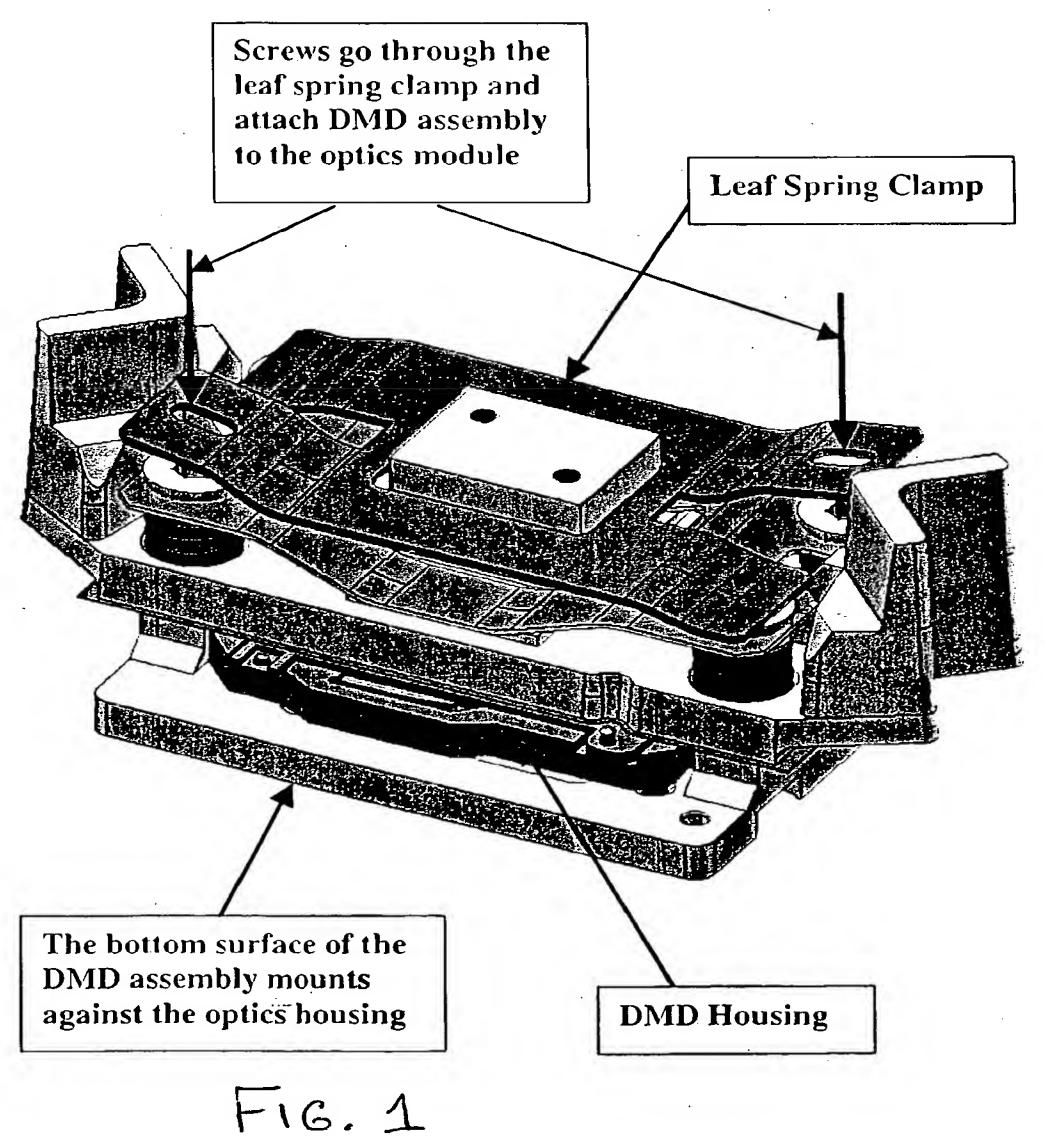
The present invention provides a controlled clamping force to the DMD assembly, so that it remains in place between the production steps of DMD alignment and the final clamping of the screws. It also provides a positive Z-axis bias to the assembly, to eliminate any tolerance in that direction. This clamping action is accomplished using a stamped steel leaf spring.

The DMD needs to be in the correct Z-axis throughout the alignment process to keep the picture on the screen in focus. This spring system applies adequate pressure to the DMD to keep it in proper focus.

In the present light engine design, the core optics assembly is fixed in location. Therefore, it is necessary to adjust the DMD to the optics for picture alignment. The spring system with DMD alignment is unique in the industry.

The present invention uses a stamped steel piece to act as a leaf spring, as shown in FIG. 1. The spring is compressed by two shoulder screws, which applies a prescribed loading to the DMD assembly for holding it to the optics housing. With this loading applied, the DMD has enough freedom to be manipulated by the alignment machine, but will still be held in place until the system can be locked down.

In one embodiment, four coil springs and four shoulder screws are used to provide force to the system. Also, there is considerable tolerance in the force-deflection curves of the coil springs. Because the four springs act independently, there can be more or less force applied at some of the locations. In another embodiment, the leaf spring acts as a total spring system so that each contact point gets an equal loading force.



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